

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image sensing apparatus, comprising:
 - synthesis target image data storage means for storing data representing a plurality of synthesis target images of a foreground subject obtained by photography under different photographic conditions;
 - image sensing means for photographing a background and outputting data representing a background image;
 - synthesis target image selection means for selecting ~~one item of a~~ synthesis target image data of the foreground subject suited to the background image from ~~a the plurality of items of~~ synthesis target image data of the foreground subject, ~~which have been~~ stored in said synthesis target image data storage means, based upon ~~a photographic conditions~~ condition prevailing at the time ~~of photography of the background image by~~ was photographed said image sensing means; and
 - image synthesis means for combining the synthesis target image of the foreground subject selected by said synthesis target image selection means with the background image output from said image sensing means, and outputting composite image data representing a composite image.

2. (Original) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said synthesis target image selection means automatically selects one item of synthesis target image data suited to the background image from the plurality of items of synthesis target image data based upon photographic conditions of the synthesis target image and of the background image.

3. (Original) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising selection command input means for inputting a selection command;

said synthesis target image selection means selecting the synthesis target image data from said plurality of items of synthesis target image data in dependence upon a selection command input from said selection command input means.

4. (Original) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

photographic-condition storage means for storing photographic conditions prevailing at time of photography of the synthesis target image; and

image adjustment means for applying image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image represented by the selected synthesis target image

data based upon photographic conditions of the synthesis target image corresponding to the synthesis target image data selected by said synthesis target image selection means and photographic conditions of the background image;

said image synthesis means combining the synthesis target image, which has been subjected to image adjustment processing by said image adjustment means, with the background image.

5. (Original) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

image adjustment command input means for inputting an image adjustment command for at least one of a color adjustment and luminance adjustment; and

image adjustment means for applying image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image represented by the selected synthesis target image data based upon an image adjustment command input from said image adjustment command input means;

said image synthesis means combining the synthesis target image data, which has been subjected to image adjustment processing by said image adjustment means, with the background image data.

6. (Original) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying images;

background image display control means for controlling said display unit so as to display the background image sensed by said image sensing means; and

composite image display control means for controlling said display unit so as to display the composite image synthesized by said image synthesis means.

7. (Original) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

adjustment command input means for inputting an adjustment command for at least one of position and size adjustment of a synthesis target image being displayed on said display unit; and

adjustment means for applying an adjustment for at least one of position and size adjustment of the synthesis target image based upon the adjustment command input from said adjustment command input means.

8. (Withdrawn) An image sensing apparatus comprising:

synthesis target information storage means for storing data

representing a synthesis target image and photographic conditions prevailing at time of photography of the synthesis target image;

image sensing means for photographing background and outputting data representing a background image; and

image adjustment processing means for applying image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image represented by synthesis target image data, which has been stored in said synthesis target information storage means, based upon the photographic conditions of the synthesis target image that have been stored in said synthesis target information storage means and photographic conditions of the background image sensed by said image sensing means; and

image synthesis means for combining the synthesis target image data that has been subjected to the image adjustment processing by said image adjustment processing means with the background image data output from said image sensing means, and outputting composite image data representing a composite image.

9. (Withdrawn) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the synthesis target image data that has been stored in said synthesis target image information storage means was obtained by strobe flash photography.

10. (Withdrawn) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising image adjustment command input means for inputting an image adjustment command for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment;

wherein said image adjustment processing means applies image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image based upon an image adjustment command input from said image adjustment command input means; and

said image synthesis means combines the synthesis target image data, which has been subjected to image adjustment processing by said image adjustment means, with the background image data.

11. (Withdrawn) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying images;

background image display control means for controlling said

display unit so as to display the background image sensed by said image sensing means; and

composite image display control means for controlling said display unit so as to display the composite image synthesized by said image synthesis means.

12. (Withdrawn) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

adjustment command input means for inputting an adjustment command for at least one of position and size adjustment of a synthesis target image being displayed on said display unit; and

adjustment means for applying an adjustment for at least one of position and size adjustment of the synthesis target image based upon the adjustment command input from said adjustment command input means.

13. (Currently Amended) An image sensing method, comprising:

storing data representing a plurality of synthesis target images of a foreground subject obtained by photography under different photographic conditions;

photographing a background and outputting data representing a background image;

selecting ~~one item of a~~ synthesis target image data of the foreground subject suited to ~~a the~~ background image from ~~a the~~ stored plurality of ~~items of~~ synthesis target image data of the foreground subject based upon a photographic ~~conditions~~ condition prevailing at the time of ~~photography of the~~ background image was photographed; and

combining the selected synthesis target image data of the foreground subject with the background image and outputting composite image data representing a composite image.

14. (Withdrawn) An image sensing method comprising:

storing data representing a synthesis target image and photographic conditions prevailing at time of photography of the synthesis target image;

obtaining data representing a background image by photographing background;

applying image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image represented by synthesis target image data based upon the photographic conditions of the synthesis target image and photographic conditions prevailing at time of photography of the background; and

combining the synthesis target image data that has been subjected to the image adjustment processing and the background image data, and outputting composite image data representing a composite image.

15. (Previously Presented) An image sensing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said image adjustment processing means performs the color adjustment and the luminance adjustment of the synthesis target image in this order.

16. (Previously Presented) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the photographic conditions include photographic circumstances and strobe information.

17. (New) The image sensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the photographic condition includes a lighting condition.

18. (New) The image sensing apparatus of claim 17, wherein the lighting condition includes a strobe photography, frontlit photography, cloudy-weather photography, or backlit photography.

19. (New) The image sensing method of claim 13, wherein the photographic condition includes a lighting condition.

20. (New) The image sensing method of claim 19, wherein the lighting condition includes a strobe photography, frontlit photography, cloudy-weather photography, or backlit photography.